

REMARKS

This application was originally filed on 9 November 2001 with sixteen claims, two of which were written in independent form. Claims 1, 4-6, and 13-15 were amended, Claim 16 canceled, and Claims 17-30 added by amendment on 24 November 2003. Claim 27 has been amended herein. The amendment to the Abstract is to place it below the 150 word limit. Please charge any necessary fees to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Deposit Acct. No. 20-0668.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated Claim 27 was vague as the relationship between the spatial light modulator and the aperture was not stated. The applicant has amended Claim 27 to overcome this rejection.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,369,933 to O'Callaghan. The applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner stated, to help eliminate the [scattering] problem there is disclosed in col. 12, lines 6-18, the use of apertures placed at or near the surface of the SLM's." The applicant respectfully disagrees. O'Callaghan teaches "two apertures . . . are placed at the surface of mirrors 128 and 132." "Apertures are also placed over lenses 120, 122, and 124 to block light from being reflected in the intervening spaces" (col. 12, lines 5-15).

As O'Callaghan teaches away from enclosing the aperture in the cover and substrate, by placing the aperture over the lenses, O'Callaghan clearly cannot be held to suggest attaching a cover to said substrate to enclose said aperture and said spatial light modulator" as recited by Claim 27.

In view of the amendments and the remarks presented herewith, it is believed that the claims currently in the application accord with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, it is urged that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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